

to the process of amendment. They would welcome in the meantime, as a stop-gap, some agreement between the powers having a veto which would limit the occasions on which "the unanimity of the great powers" - to use that priceless euphemism - must be secured before a decision can be reached. We must remember that a two-year-old constitution for the international community is a very young constitution. It must be changed sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

It would not be wise to be cocksure about what change should be made. By maximum count there are about seventy sovereign states in the world, of which fifty-five are members of the United Nations already. The population of the member states varies between the 450 millions of China and the 130 thousand of Iceland. There are just as wide variations among members between their military power, economic strength, standard of living, stake in world trade, and capacity to contribute to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations, as there are between their populations. It is sometimes said, nevertheless, that the "democratic" way of settling international issues would be to treat all states, large and small, on the same basis, to make them all equally eligible to serve on any international body, and to arrive at all decisions by giving each state one vote, irrespective of the size and importance of the states in the minority.

It is not as easy as that; and it would be a curious sort of "democracy" that would seek to equate Paraguay with the Soviet Union, or Afghanistan with the United States. Difficult though it will be, we shall have to find some middle way between, on the one hand, the present situation in which any one of five named powers can thwart action desired by a great majority of the international community, and, on the other hand, a simple counting of states, always reckoning each one as one and no one as more than one.

The frustration which afflicts the Security Council, the only organ of the United Nations in which the veto applies, is not confined to that body. The use of the veto is a symptom, not a cause, of that profound division of our single world which baffles the statesmen, the diplomats, the publicists, and the ordinary man in the street.

Almost any constitution, national or international, can be made to work if there is the will to work it. The problem today is much less easily soluble than that of agreeing on some new words to replace the words now in the Charter. We face today, in an acute form, the same central question that faced the League of Nations nearly thirty years ago: Are the member states and the governments that speak for them ready to accept, in judgment on their own actions, "the decent opinion of mankind" expressed through a general international organization? All the countries of the world that possess substantial power are members of the United Nations - and that was never even nearly true of the League of Nations - but the same question hangs ominously over Lake Success that used to haunt the corridors of Geneva: Have they the will to use their power to further the purposes and principles of the Charter?

Canadian representatives at United Nations meetings have been, and are, advocates of patience, of moderation, of seeking to understand the other's point of view. Acting on the maxim that the better is often the enemy of the good, they have not supported ideal but impracticable solutions of differences. They have believed, as all good democrats must believe, in the power of persuasion and reason. They have had few axes of their own to grind. They have been guided by the profound conviction that in one way or another, in this shrunken world of today, means must be found to equip the international community with effective power for international action.

They know it is not easy. I have heard that in this enlightened spot an intense local issue currently is whether the two Tarrytowns should be united in a single Tarrytown. At the risk of wounding local feelings, may I say that their pattern of life is very similar and also their problems of gov-